

44th South Island Primary Schools Tournament Oamaru 8th-12th 2007

North Otago hosted a very successful tournament with 14 year 7 and 8 teams entered in the competition. Over the five days an estimated 500 people attended each day. Wednesday was rained out, with the rest of the week being fine.

The opening was held at Centennial Park Oval on Sunday. After an address by the N.O.C.A. President, Mr Kevin Ward, the Waitaki District Council Mayor, Mr Alan Mclay opened the tournament.

We had nine wickets available to us, 3 at Centennial Park, 3 at the adjacent St Kevins College and 3 at Waitaki Boys High School, a couple of blocks away. Having the 3 venues with in close prominity made the job of running the tournament much easier.

Special thanks got to the four grounds men, Stu Dean, Robert Coates, Kelvin McFelin, under the guidance of Russell Payne. Many compliments were received about the quality of the wickets. We had a minor problem with the outfield being cut due to wet weather prior to the tournament, but with the cooperation from the staff at the Whitestone landscaping Company and Waitaki Boys high School we kept the grounds to a reasonable standard. Three experienced administrators and ex cricketers, Kevin Ward, John Crombie and Terry Lake did a great job of ground management at each venue.

The wet day was not lost, a managers meeting was called to discuss the existing tournament rules. After discussions some recommendations will be put forward to each association for their approval. I congratulate the managers who attended the meeting for their positive inputs and suggestions. New Zealand President, Mr Don Neely, arrived on Wednesday in time for the managers meeting. Mr Neely stayed in Oamaru until the closing ceremony on Friday, in which he gave an address to the crowd and presented the trophies. It was a pleasure to host him and I am sure he enjoyed seeing the sights of Oamaru while being escorted by a member of the N.O.C.A. Don enjoys this age group of cricketers and appreciated the opportunity to watch young cricketers in action.

The winner of the tournament was Christchurch Black. The fielding trophy went to Nelson. Some out standing individual performances were achieved with bat and ball. One individual obtaining a century and two hat tricks were recorded from two players.

There was a huge gap between the top 3 or 4 teams and the bottom teams. This was one of the topics discussed at the managers meeting and I hope something positive will come from our recommendations (to come out in 2007).

My thanks to Peter Cameron for obtaining the sponsors, L.J. Hooker, The National Bank, ANZ, R X Plastics, NZI, North Otago Pastoral Services, CRT and Roost Mortgages all went towards helping us run a successful tournament.

The length of the time this tournament has been running is proof that the over all format is a sound one and I hope it continues for many years to come. It has been a pleasure to host this tournament in Oamaru.

E. Tempero
Tournament Manager



Members of the 44th South Island Primary Tournament Committee
Back Row:~ Tony Gray, Stu Dean (Centennial Park 2 &3 groundsman), Kevin Ward (WBHS ground manager), John Crombie (St Kevin's ground manager), Neville Hoskin, Robert Coates (St Kevin's groundsman)

Front Row: ~ Terry Lake (Umpires Coordinator), Peter Cameron, Edward (Ted) Tempero (tournament manager), Lynda Wilson (tournament secretary), Russell Payne (Centennial Park Oval groundsman),
Kelvin McFelin (WBHS groundsman)